

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1855

To promote industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 2009

Mr. LOEBSACK (for himself and Mr. PLATTS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To promote industry growth and competitiveness and to improve worker training, retention, and advancement, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Employ-
5 ment Clusters to Organize Regional Success Act of 2009”
6 or the “SECTORS Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT.**

2 Subtitle D of title I of the Workforce Investment Act
3 of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2911 et seq.) is amended by inserting
4 after section 174 the following:

5 **“SEC. 174A. INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANT**
6 **PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to
8 create designated capacity to promote industry or sector
9 partnerships that lead collaborative planning, resource
10 alignment, and training efforts across multiple firms for
11 a range of workers employed or potentially employed by
12 a targeted industry cluster, in order to encourage industry
13 growth and competitiveness and to improve worker train-
14 ing, retention, and advancement in targeted industry clus-
15 ters, including by developing—

16 “(1) immediate strategies for regions and com-
17 munities to fulfill pressing skilled workforce needs;

18 “(2) long-term plans to grow targeted industry
19 clusters with better training and a more productive
20 workforce;

21 “(3) core competencies and competitive advan-
22 tages for regions and communities undergoing struc-
23 tural economic redevelopment; and

24 “(4) cross-firm skill standards, career ladders,
25 job redefinitions, employer practices, and shared

1 training and support capacities that facilitate the
2 advancement of workers at all skill levels.

3 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) CAREER LADDER.—The term ‘career lad-
5 der’ means an identified series of positions, work ex-
6 periences, and educational benchmarks or credentials
7 that offer occupational and financial advancement
8 within a specified career field or related fields over
9 time.

10 “(2) ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY.—The term
11 ‘economic self-sufficiency’ means, with respect to a
12 worker, earning a wage sufficient to support a fam-
13 ily adequately over time, based on factors such as—

14 “(A) family size;

15 “(B) the number and ages of children in
16 the family;

17 “(C) the cost of living in the worker’s com-
18 munity; and

19 “(D) other factors that may vary by re-
20 gion.

21 “(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
22 tity’ means—

23 “(A) an industry or sector partnership; or

24 “(B) an eligible State agency.

1 “(4) ELIGIBLE STATE AGENCY.—The term ‘eli-
2 gible State agency’ means a State agency designated
3 by the Governor of the State for the purposes of the
4 grant program under this section.

5 “(5) HIGH-PRIORITY OCCUPATION.—The term
6 ‘high-priority occupation’ means an occupation
7 that—

8 “(A) has a significant presence in an in-
9 dustry cluster;

10 “(B) is in demand by employers;

11 “(C) pays family-sustaining wages that en-
12 able workers to achieve economic self-suffi-
13 ciency, or can reasonably be expected to lead to
14 such wages;

15 “(D) has a documented career ladder; and

16 “(E) has a significant impact on a region’s
17 economic development strategy.

18 “(6) INDUSTRY CLUSTER.—The term ‘industry
19 cluster’ means a concentration of interconnected
20 businesses, suppliers, research and development,
21 service providers, and associated institutions in a
22 particular field that are linked by common workforce
23 needs.

1 “(7) INDUSTRY OR SECTOR PARTNERSHIP.—

2 The term ‘industry or sector partnership’ means a
3 workforce collaborative that—

4 “(A) organizes key stakeholders in a tar-
5 geted industry cluster into a working group
6 that focuses on the human capital needs of a
7 targeted industry cluster and that includes, at
8 the appropriate stage of development of the
9 partnership—

10 “(i) representatives of multiple firms
11 or employers, including workers, in a tar-
12 geted industry cluster, including small- and
13 medium-sized employers when practicable;

14 “(ii) 1 or more representatives of
15 State labor organizations, central labor
16 coalitions, or other labor organizations;

17 “(iii) 1 or more representatives of
18 local boards;

19 “(iv) 1 or more representatives of
20 postsecondary educational institutions or
21 other training providers; and

22 “(v) 1 or more representatives of
23 State workforce agencies or other entities
24 providing employment services; and

25 “(B) may include representatives of—

- 1 “(i) State or local government;
- 2 “(ii) State or local economic develop-
- 3 ment agencies;
- 4 “(iii) other State or local agencies;
- 5 “(iv) chambers of commerce;
- 6 “(v) nonprofit organizations;
- 7 “(vi) philanthropic organizations;
- 8 “(vii) economic development organiza-
- 9 tions;
- 10 “(viii) industry associations; and
- 11 “(ix) other organizations, as deter-
- 12 mined necessary by the members com-
- 13 prising the industry or sector partnership.

14 “(8) TARGETED INDUSTRY CLUSTER.—The
 15 term ‘targeted industry cluster’ means an industry
 16 cluster that has—

- 17 “(A) economic impact in a local or regional
- 18 area;
- 19 “(B) immediate workforce development
- 20 needs; and
- 21 “(C) documented career opportunities.

22 “(c) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appro-
 24 priated under subsection (i), the Secretary shall
 25 award, on a competitive basis, planning grants de-

scribed in paragraph (3) and implementation grants described in paragraph (4) to eligible entities, to enable the eligible entities to plan and implement, respectively, the eligible entities' strategic objectives in accordance with subsection (f).

“(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—

“(A) PLANNING GRANTS.—A planning grant awarded under paragraph (3) shall not exceed \$250,000.

“(B) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—An implementation grant awarded under paragraph (4)(A) shall not exceed a total of \$2,500,000 for a 3-year period.

“(C) RENEWAL GRANTS.—A renewal grant awarded under paragraph (4)(C) shall not exceed a total of \$1,500,000 for a 3-year period.

“(3) PLANNING GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award a planning grant under this section to an eligible entity that—

“(i) is a newly formed industry or sector partnership; and

“(ii) has not received a grant under this section.

1 “(B) DURATION.—A planning grant shall
2 be for a duration of 1 year.

3 “(4) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
5 award an implementation grant under this sec-
6 tion to—

7 “(i) an eligible entity that has already
8 received a planning grant under this sec-
9 tion; or

10 “(ii) an eligible entity that is an es-
11 tablished industry or sector partnership.

12 “(B) DURATION.—An implementation
13 grant shall be for a duration of not more than
14 3 years, and may be renewed in accordance
15 with subparagraph (C).

16 “(C) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may
17 renew an implementation grant for not more
18 than 3 years. A renewal of such grant shall be
19 subject to the requirements of this section, ex-
20 cept that the Secretary shall—

21 “(i) prioritize renewals to eligible enti-
22 ties that can demonstrate the long-term
23 sustainability of an industry or sector part-
24 nership funded under this section;

“(ii) as a condition of renewing the grant, and notwithstanding subsection (d), decrease the amount of the Federal share and increase the amount of the non-Federal share required for the grant, which must include at least a 25 percent cash match from the State, the industry cluster, or some combination thereof; and

“(iii) require assurances that the eligible entity will leverage, each year, additional funding sources in accordance with subparagraph (D)(ii) than the eligible entity provided for the preceding year of the grant.

“(D) FEDERAL AND NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

“(i) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C)(ii) and (D)(iii), the Federal share of an implementation grant under this section shall be—

“(I) 90 percent of the costs of the activities described in subsection (g), in the first year of the grant;

“(II) 80 percent of such costs in the second year of the grant; and

1 “(III) 70 percent of such costs in
2 the third year of the grant.

3 “(ii) NON-FEDERAL.—The non-Fed-
4 eral share of an implementation grant
5 under this section may be in cash or in-
6 kind, and may come from State, local, phil-
7 anthropic, private, or other sources.

8 “(iii) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary
9 may require the Federal share of an imple-
10 mentation grant under this section to be
11 100 percent if an eligible entity receiving
12 such grant is located in a State or local
13 area that is receiving a national emergency
14 grant under section 173.

15 “(5) FISCAL AGENT.—Each eligible entity re-
16 ceiving a grant under this section that is an industry
17 or sector partnership shall designate an entity in the
18 partnership as the fiscal agent for purposes of this
19 grant.

20 “(6) USE OF GRANT FUNDS DURING GRANT PE-
21 RIODS.—An eligible entity receiving grant funds
22 under a planning grant, implementation grant, or a
23 renewal grant under this section shall expend grant
24 funds or obligate grant funds to be expended by the
25 last day of the grant period.

1 “(d) APPLICATION PROCESS.—

2 “(1) IDENTIFICATION OF A TARGETED INDUS-
3 TRY CLUSTER.—In order to qualify for a grant
4 under this section, an eligible entity shall identify a
5 targeted industry cluster that could benefit from
6 such grant by—

7 “(A) working with businesses, industry as-
8 sociations and organizations, labor organiza-
9 tions, State boards, local boards, economic de-
10 velopment agencies, and other organizations
11 that the eligible entity determines necessary, to
12 identify an appropriate targeted industry clus-
13 ter based on criteria that include, at a min-
14 imum—

15 “(i) data showing the competitiveness
16 of the industry cluster;

17 “(ii) the importance of the industry
18 cluster to the economic development of the
19 area served by the eligible entity;

20 “(iii) the identification of supply and
21 distribution chains within the industry
22 cluster; and

23 “(iv) research studies on industry
24 clusters; and

“(B) working with appropriate employment agencies, workforce investment boards, economic development agencies, community organizations, and other organizations that the eligible entity determines necessary to ensure that the targeted industry cluster identified under subparagraph (A) should be targeted for investment, based primarily on the following criteria:

“(i) Demonstrated demand for job growth potential.

“(ii) Measurable evidence of competitiveness.

“(iii) Employment base.

“(iv) Wages and benefits.

“(v) Demonstrated importance of the targeted industry cluster to the area’s economy.

“(vi) Workforce development needs.

“(2) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring to receive a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require. An application submitted under this paragraph shall contain, at a minimum, the following:

1 “(A) A description of the eligible entity,
2 evidence of the eligible entity’s capacity to carry
3 out activities in support of the strategic objec-
4 tives identified in the application under sub-
5 paragraph (D), and, if the eligible entity is an
6 industry or sector partnership, a description of
7 the expected participation and responsibilities of
8 each of the mandatory partners described in
9 subsection (b)(8)(A).

10 “(B) A description of the targeted industry
11 cluster for which the eligible entity intends to
12 carry out activities through a grant under this
13 section, and a description of how such targeted
14 industry cluster was identified in accordance
15 with paragraph (1).

16 “(C) A description of the workers that will
17 be targeted or recruited by the partnership, in-
18 cluding an analysis of the existing labor market,
19 a description of potential barriers to employ-
20 ment for targeted workers, and a description of
21 strategies that will be employed to help workers
22 overcome such barriers.

23 “(D) A description of the strategic objec-
24 tives that the eligible entity intends to carry out

1 for the targeted industry cluster, which objec-
2 tives shall include—

3 “(i) recruiting key stakeholders in the
4 targeted industry cluster, such as busi-
5 nesses and employers, labor organizations,
6 industry associations, local boards, State
7 boards, and education and training pro-
8 viders, and regularly convening the stake-
9 holders in a collaborative structure that
10 supports the sharing of information, ideas,
11 and challenges common to the targeted in-
12 dustry cluster;

13 “(ii) identifying the training needs of
14 multiple businesses, especially skill gaps
15 critical to competitiveness and innovation
16 to the targeted industry cluster;

17 “(iii) facilitating economies of scale by
18 aggregating training and education needs
19 of multiple employers;

20 “(iv) helping postsecondary edu-
21 cational institutions, training institutions,
22 and registered apprenticeship programs
23 align curricula entrance requirements and
24 programs to industry demand, particularly

1 for higher skill, high-priority occupations
2 validated by the industry;

3 “(v) ensuring that the State agency,
4 including services provided by State merit
5 staff authorized under the Wagner-Peyser
6 Act program, shall inform recipients of un-
7 employment insurance and trade adjust-
8 ment assistance under chapter 2 or 6 of
9 title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19
10 U.S.C. 2271 et seq., 2401 et seq.) of the
11 job and training opportunities that may re-
12 sult from the implementation of this grant;

13 “(vi) informing and collaborating with
14 organizations such as youth councils, busi-
15 ness-education partnerships, apprenticeship
16 programs, secondary schools, and postsec-
17 ondary educational institutions, and with
18 parents and career counselors, for the pur-
19 pose of addressing the challenges of con-
20 necting disadvantaged adults as defined in
21 section 132(b)(1)(B)(v) and disadvantaged
22 youth as defined in section 127(b) to ca-
23 reers;

24 “(vii) helping companies identify, and
25 work together to address, common organi-

zational and human resource challenges,
such as—

“(I) recruiting new workers;

“(II) implementing effective
workplace practices;

“(III) retaining dislocated and
incumbent workers;

“(IV) implementing a high-per-
formance work organization;

“(V) recruiting and retaining
women in nontraditional occupations;

“(VI) adopting new technologies;
and

“(VII) fostering experiential and
contextualized on-the-job learning;

“(viii) developing and strengthening
career ladders within and across companies
(in cooperation with labor organizations if
the labor organizations represent employ-
ees engaged in similar work in the industry
cluster), in order to enable dislocated, in-
cumbent and entry-level workers to im-
prove skills and advance to higher-wage
jobs;

1 “(ix) improving job quality through
2 improving wages, benefits, and working
3 conditions;

4 “(x) helping partner companies in in-
5 dustry or sector partnerships to attract po-
6 tential employees from a diverse job seeker
7 base, including individuals with barriers to
8 employment (such as job seekers who are
9 low income, youth, older workers, and indi-
10 viduals who have completed a term of im-
11 prisonment), by identifying such barriers
12 through analysis of the existing labor mar-
13 ket and implementing strategies to help
14 such workers overcome such barriers; and

15 “(xi) strengthening connections
16 among businesses in the targeted industry
17 cluster, leading to cooperation beyond
18 workforce issues that will improve competi-
19 tiveness and job quality, such as joint pur-
20 chasing, market research, or centers for
21 technology and innovation.

22 “(E) A description of the manner in which
23 the eligible entity intends to make sustainable
24 progress toward the strategic objectives de-
25 scribed in subparagraph (D).

1 “(F) Performance measures, including
2 quantifiable interim performance, for measuring
3 progress toward the strategic objectives. Such
4 measures shall consider, at a minimum, the
5 benefits provided by the grant activities funded
6 under this section for—

7 “(i) workers employed in the targeted
8 industry cluster, disaggregated by gender
9 and race, including—

10 “(I) the number of workers re-
11 ceiving portable industry-recognized
12 credentials;

13 “(II) the number of workers with
14 increased wages, the percentage of
15 workers with increased wages, and the
16 average wage increase; and

17 “(III) for dislocated or non-
18 incumbent workers, the number of
19 workers placed in sector-related jobs;
20 and

21 “(ii) firms and industries in the tar-
22 geted industry cluster, including—

23 “(I) the creation or updating of
24 an industry plan to meet current and
25 future workforce demand;

1 “(II) the creation or updating of
2 published industry-wide skill stand-
3 ards or career pathways;

4 “(III) the creation or updating of
5 portable, industry-recognized creden-
6 tials, or where there is not such a cre-
7 dential, the creation or updating of a
8 training curriculum that can lead to
9 the development of such a credential;

10 “(IV) in the case of an eligible
11 entity that is an industry or sector
12 partnership, the number of firms, and
13 the percentage of the local industry,
14 participating in the industry or sector
15 partnership; and

16 “(V) the number of firms, and
17 the percentage of the local industry,
18 receiving workers or services through
19 the grant funded under this section.

20 “(G) A timeline for achieving progress to-
21 ward the strategic objectives.

22 “(H) In the case of an eligible entity desir-
23 ing an implementation grant under this section,
24 an assurance that the eligible entity will lever-
25 age other funding sources, in addition to the

1 amount required for the non-Federal share
2 under subsection (d), to provide training or
3 supportive services to workers under the grant
4 program. Such additional funding sources may
5 include—

6 “(i) funding under this title used for
7 such training and supportive services;

8 “(ii) funding under the Adult Edu-
9 cation and Family Literacy Act of 1998
10 (20 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.);

11 “(iii) funding under chapter 2 or 6 of
12 title II of the Trade Act of 1974 (19
13 U.S.C. 2271 et seq.);

14 “(iv) economic development funding;

15 “(v) employer contributions to train-
16 ing initiatives; or

17 “(vi) providing employees with em-
18 ployee release time for such training or
19 supportive services.

20 “(e) AWARD BASIS.—

21 “(1) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Sec-
22 retary shall award grants under this section in a
23 manner to ensure geographic diversity.

1 “(2) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under
2 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-
3 ble entities that—

4 “(A) work with employers within a tar-
5 geted industry cluster to retain and expand em-
6 ployment in high wage, high growth areas;

7 “(B) focus on helping workers move to-
8 ward economic self-sufficiency and ensuring the
9 workers have access to adequate supportive
10 services;

11 “(C) address the needs of firms with lim-
12 ited human resources or in-house training ca-
13 pacity, including small- and medium-sized
14 firms; and

15 “(D) coordinate with entities carrying out
16 State and local workforce investment, economic
17 development, and education activities.

18 “(f) ACTIVITIES.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity receiving
20 a grant under this section shall carry out the activi-
21 ties necessary to meet the strategic objectives de-
22 scribed in the entity’s application in a manner
23 that—

1 “(A) integrates services and funding
2 sources in a way that enhances the effectiveness
3 of the activities; and

4 “(B) uses grant funds awarded under this
5 section efficiently.

6 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible enti-
7 ty may retain a portion of a grant awarded under
8 this section for a fiscal year to carry out the admin-
9 istration of this section in an amount not to exceed
10 10 percent of the grant amount.

11 “(g) EVALUATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS.—

12 “(1) ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT AND EVALUA-
13 TION.—Not later than 1 year after receiving a grant
14 under this section, and annually thereafter, an eligi-
15 ble entity shall—

16 “(A) report to the Secretary, and to the
17 Governor of the State that the eligible entity
18 serves, on the activities funded pursuant to a
19 grant under this section; and

20 “(B) evaluate the progress the eligible enti-
21 ty has made toward the strategic objectives
22 identified in the application under subsection
23 (d)(2)(D), and measure the progress using the
24 performance measures identified in the applica-
25 tion under subsection (d)(2)(F).

1 “(2) REPORT TO THE SECRETARY.—An eligible
2 entity receiving a grant under this section shall sub-
3 mit to the Secretary a report containing the results
4 of the evaluation described in subparagraph (B) at
5 such time and in such manner as the Secretary may
6 require.

7 “(h) ADMINISTRATION BY THE SECRETARY.—

8 “(1) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary
9 may retain not more than 10 percent of the funds
10 appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appro-
11 priations under subsection (j) for each fiscal year to
12 administer this section.

13 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OVER-
14 SIGHT.—The Secretary shall provide technical assist-
15 ance and oversight to assist the eligible State and
16 local agencies or eligible entities in applying for and
17 administering grants awarded under this section.
18 The Secretary shall also provide technical assistance
19 to eligible entities in the form of conferences and
20 through the collection and dissemination of informa-
21 tion on best practices developed by eligible partner-
22 ships. The Secretary may award a grant or contract
23 to 1 or more national or State organizations to pro-
24 vide technical assistance to foster the planning, for-

1 mation, and implementation of industry cluster part-
2 nerships.

3 “(3) GEOGRAPHIC EQUALITY.—The Secretary
4 shall ensure that, to the extent practicable, grants
5 are awarded on a geographically equal basis.

6 “(4) PERFORMANCE MEASURES.—The Sec-
7 retary shall issue a range of performance measures,
8 with quantifiable benchmarks, and methodologies
9 that eligible entities may use to evaluate the effec-
10 tiveness of each type of activity in making progress
11 toward the strategic objectives described in sub-
12 section (d)(2)(D). Such measures shall consider the
13 benefits of the industry or sector partnership and its
14 activities for workers, firms, industries, and commu-
15 nities.

16 “(5) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The
17 Secretary shall—

18 “(A) coordinate the annual review of each
19 eligible entity receiving a grant under this sec-
20 tion and produce an overview report that, at a
21 minimum, includes—

22 “(i) the critical learning of each in-
23 dustry or sector partnership, such as—

24 “(I) the training that was most
25 effective;

1 “(II) the human resource chal-
2 lenges that were most common;

3 “(III) how technology is changing
4 the targeted industry cluster; and

5 “(IV) the changes that may im-
6 pact the targeted industry cluster over
7 the next 5 years; and

8 “(ii) a description of what eligible en-
9 tities serving similar targeted industry
10 clusters consider exemplary practices, such
11 as—

12 “(I) how to work effectively with
13 postsecondary educational institutions;

14 “(II) the use of internships;

15 “(III) coordinating with appren-
16 ticeships and cooperative education
17 programs;

18 “(IV) how to work effectively
19 with schools providing vocational edu-
20 cation;

21 “(V) how to work effectively with
22 adult populations, including—

23 “(aa) dislocated workers;

24 “(bb) women in nontradi-
25 tional occupations; and

1 “(cc) individuals with bar-
2 riers to employment, such as job
3 seekers who—

4 “(AA) are economically
5 disadvantaged;

6 “(BB) have limited
7 English proficiency;

8 “(CC) require remedial
9 education;

10 “(DD) are older work-
11 ers;

12 “(EE) are individuals
13 who have completed a sen-
14 tence for a criminal offense;
15 and

16 “(FF) have other bar-
17 riers to employment;

18 “(VI) employer practices that are
19 most effective;

20 “(VII) the types of training that
21 are most effective; and

22 “(VIII) other areas where indus-
23 try or sector partnerships can assist
24 each other;

1 “(B) make resource materials, including all
2 reports published and all data collected under
3 this section, available on the Internet; and

4 “(C) conduct conferences and seminars
5 to—

6 “(i) disseminate information on best
7 practices developed by eligible entities re-
8 ceiving a grant under this section; and

9 “(ii) provide information to the com-
10 munities of eligible entities.

11 “(6) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after
12 the date of enactment of this Act and on an annual
13 basis, the Secretary shall transmit a report to Con-
14 gress on the industry or sector partnership grant
15 program established by this section. The report shall
16 include a description of—

17 “(A) the eligible entities receiving funding;

18 “(B) the activities carried out by the eligi-
19 ble entities;

20 “(C) how the eligible entities were selected
21 to receive funding under this section; and

22 “(D) an assessment of the results achieved
23 by the grant program including findings from
24 the annual reviews described in paragraph
25 (4)(A).

1 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
3 appropriated to carry out this section such sums as
4 may be necessary for fiscal year 2010 and for each
5 succeeding fiscal year.

6 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated
7 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
8 under paragraph (1) for the fiscal year shall remain
9 available until the end of the second fiscal year fol-
10 lowing the fiscal year in which such amounts were
11 first appropriated.”.

12 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION.**

13 (a) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION.—The head of each
14 Federal department or agency whose funding, regulations,
15 or other policies impact workers shall cooperate with the
16 Secretary of Labor to—

17 (1) maintain up-to-date information on jobs,
18 wages, benefits, skills, and careers of workers im-
19 pacted by the actions of such agency or department;

20 (2) develop and implement policies that would
21 improve the jobs and careers of workers impacted by
22 the actions of such agency or department; and

23 (3) report the department or agency’s job cre-
24 ation and economic development strategies to the
25 Secretary.

1 (b) ALIGNMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
2 sion of law, the Secretary and the heads of other Federal
3 departments or agencies shall work together to align exist-
4 ing education and training programs with the dem-
5 onstrated needs of industry or sector partnerships, as de-
6 fined in section 174A(b) of the Workforce Investment Act.
7 These collaborative efforts shall include the following:

8 (1) DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.—The Sec-
9 retary of Commerce shall advise the Secretary of
10 Labor of the Department of Commerce’s workforce
11 and economic development strategies, programs, and
12 initiatives.

13 (2) JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.—The Attorney
14 General shall—

15 (A) align federally funded programs offer-
16 ing training for inmates with industry clusters
17 (as defined in section 174A(b) of the Workforce
18 Investment Act) and high-priority occupations,
19 and annually review these training programs to
20 assure that the training programs prepare indi-
21 viduals for high-priority occupations; and

22 (B) align federally funded reentry pro-
23 grams to take advantage of information and ca-
24 reer opportunities provided by industry and sec-
25 tor partnerships.

1 (3) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.—The Sec-
2 retary of Education shall—

3 (A) develop and support career ladders for
4 high-priority occupations critical to targeted in-
5 dustry clusters served by a grant under section
6 174A of the Workforce Investment Act;

7 (B) develop and support innovative pro-
8 grams to address literacy (including English as
9 a second language) and numeracy short-
10 comings, especially in those occupations critical
11 to such targeted industry clusters;

12 (C) develop and support programs and
13 strategies to reduce barriers to adult education;

14 (D) develop and support career education
15 initiatives in middle and high schools; and

16 (E) support initiatives to develop industry-
17 recognized credentials and new credit-bearing
18 programs in public and private postsecondary
19 educational institutions, especially in occupa-
20 tions critical to such targeted industry clusters.

21 (4) DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
22 SERVICES.—The Secretary of Health and Human
23 Services shall—

24 (A) develop and support innovative pro-
25 grams that connect qualified individuals receiv-

1 ing assistance under the State temporary assist-
2 ance for needy families program funded under
3 part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42
4 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) with employment opportuni-
5 ties in the targeted industry clusters served by
6 a grant under section 174A of the Workforce
7 Investment Act;

8 (B) develop and support strategies to pre-
9 pare individuals receiving assistance under the
10 State temporary assistance for needy families
11 programs funded under part A of title IV of the
12 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) for
13 success in postsecondary education and training
14 programs; and

15 (C) develop and support career education
16 initiatives that provide such individuals with in-
17 formation to guide the clients' education and
18 training plans.

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